

# Dichotomous Winter Plant Key

## Aspen

Smooth trunk  
Shiny, pointed leaf buds

## Willow

Smooth thin twigs  
Small buds are covered by only one scale

## Balsam Poplar

Young: smooth to lightly grooved bark  
Mature: deeply grooved bark  
Reddish-brown twigs  
Large, sticky buds  
Bud present on end of twig

## Birch

Slender twigs are orange-brown with small white dots when young

## Willow

Smooth thin twigs  
No nutlets  
Small buds

## Alder

Nutlets present  
Smooth twigs with many dots

## White Spruce

New twigs are whitish and smooth  
Elongated cones fall off each year

## Tamarack

Looks like a dead Christmas tree  
"Needles" are really leaves that fall off each autumn

## Black Spruce

New twigs are reddish and fuzzy  
Egg-shaped cones stay on tree in big clusters

Kathy Sarns